General Assembly

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 31 July 2014

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/68/L.55 and Add.1)*]

68/303. Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 65/283 of 22 June 2011 and 66/291 of 13 September 2012 on strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions and Security Council resolutions and presidential statements related to mediation and to regional and subregional organizations,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming its commitment to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States,

Recalling Chapter VI, including Article 33, of the Charter, and other Articles relevant to mediation, as well as Chapter VIII of the Charter and other Articles relevant to, inter alia, the role of regional and subregional organizations in mediation,

Bearing in mind its responsibilities, functions and powers under the Charter, and thus recalling all its relevant resolutions in matters related to the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, including through mediation,

Reaffirming the respective role and authority of the General Assembly and the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter,

Acknowledging the efforts of the Security Council to promote cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, including through mediation, and encouraging the continued cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, as appropriate, in accordance with the Charter,

Reaffirming its commitment to uphold the sovereign equality of all States, respect for their territorial integrity and political independence and the duty of Member States to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of

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force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations, and to uphold the resolution of disputes by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, the right to self-determination of peoples which remain under colonial domination or foreign occupation, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the equal rights of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and the fulfilment in good faith of the obligations assumed in accordance with the Charter,

Bearing in mind that armed and other types of conflicts and terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, and hostage-taking still persist in many parts of the world,

Recalling that the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, in accordance with the Charter and international law, including through mediation, remain a primary responsibility of Member States without prejudice to Article 36 of the Charter,

Recognizing that responsible and credible mediation requires, inter alia, national ownership, the consent of parties to a particular dispute or conflict, the impartiality of the mediators, their compliance with agreed mandates, respect for national sovereignty, compliance with obligations of States and other relevant actors under international law, including applicable treaties, the operational preparedness, including process and substantive expertise, of the mediators, and coherence, coordination and complementarity of mediation efforts,

Emphasizing that justice and truth is a fundamental building block of sustainable peace,

Appreciating the efforts of the Secretary-General, the Member States, regional and subregional organizations and other relevant actors to promote the use of mediation, and in this regard taking note of the United Nations Guidance for Effective Mediation,[1]

Stressing the need for Member States as well as the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations to continue to improve, as appropriate, their capacities in the pacific settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and conflict resolution, including mediation, for sustainable peace,

Recalling the good offices of the Secretary-General, and appreciating his efforts to continue to strengthen United Nations mediation support capacities, in accordance with agreed mandates,

Appreciating the partnerships and cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the field of mediation and the efforts of the Secretary-General to work together with regional and subregional organizations to strengthen their mediation support capacities, upon request and in accordance with agreed mandates,

Encouraging the Secretary-General to support regional efforts and initiatives by Member States, as well as regional and subregional organizations, to promote mediation and to prevent and resolve conflicts, upon request and in accordance with agreed mandates,

[1] A/66/811, annex I.

Reaffirming the role of regional and subregional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security, in line with provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter, and taking note of their important role as mediators, within agreed mandates, in many regions, acting with the consent of parties to a particular dispute or conflict,

Acknowledging that regional and subregional organizations can benefit mediation efforts with their specific approaches stemming from their geographic, cultural and historical proximity to, as well as information about, specific local conflict situations within their mandates, and contribute to the prevention and resolution of such conflicts,

Recognizing the importance of the equal and effective participation and the full involvement of women at all levels, at all stages and in all aspects of the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, as well as the provision of adequate gender expertise for all mediators and their teams, noting that further efforts are necessary to appoint more women as chief or lead peace mediators, and in this context reaffirming the full and effective implementation of all relevant United Nations resolutions, including those on women, peace and security, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[2] and furthermore welcoming the role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in this respect,

Recognizing also national and civil society actors active in mediation, and encouraging their contributions and continued coordination to improve complementarity in mediation activities, when appropriate, in this regard,

Welcoming the increasing contribution by the African Union in efforts to settle conflicts of its members, and expressing its support for the peace initiatives conducted by the African regional and subregional organizations,

1. *Reiterates* that all Member States should strictly adhere to their obligations as laid down in the Charter of the United Nations, including in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution;

2. *Welcomes* the contributions of Member States, as well as of the United Nations and of regional and subregional organizations, to mediation efforts, as appropriate;

3. *Invites* Member States, as well as the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, as appropriate, to continue to optimize the use of mediation and other tools mentioned in Chapter VI of the Charter for the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution;

4. *Encourages* Member States, as well as the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, to continue to develop, where appropriate, their mediation capacities in the pacific settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and conflict resolution;

5. *Also encourages* Member States, as well as the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, to increase the awareness on the importance of mediation, as appropriate, through, inter alia, the organization of conferences,

[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

seminars and workshops, and in this regard welcomes regional initiatives to strengthen mediation in their regions, such as the "Mediation in the Mediterranean Initiative";

6. *Encourages* the use, as appropriate, of the United Nations Guidance for Effective Mediation[1] in mediation efforts, in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter;

7. *Encourages* Member States and regional and subregional organizations to promote equal, full and effective participation of women in all forums and at all levels of the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, particularly the decision-making level;

8. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to appoint women as chief or lead mediators and as members of mediation teams in United Nations-sponsored peace processes, as well as to ensure adequate gender expertise for all United Nations processes, and invites similar efforts by Member States as well as by regional and subregional organizations;

9. *Encourages* Member States, as appropriate, to use the mediation capacities of the United Nations as well as those of regional and subregional organizations, where applicable, and to promote mediation in their bilateral and multilateral relations;

10. *Invites* all Member States to consider providing sustained political support, expertise and timely and adequate resources, including through the United Nations, for mediation and, as appropriate, for the implementation of agreed outcomes of mediation processes, in order to assure their success, as well as for mediation capacity-building activities of the United Nations and of regional and subregional organizations;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to offer his good offices, in accordance with the Charter and relevant United Nations resolutions, and to provide mediation support, where appropriate, to special representatives and envoys of the United Nations as well as to Member States and regional and subregional organizations, upon request;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to work with Member States and relevant regional and subregional organizations, upon request and in accordance with agreed mandates, in mediation capacity-building for the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, including through training events and staff exchanges;

13. *Encourages* the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations to regularly hold dialogues on mediation upon mutually agreed agendas, exchange views, information and lessons learned and improve cooperation, coordination, coherence and complementarity in specific mediation contexts, in accordance with agreed mandates and as appropriate;

14. *Stresses* the importance of partnerships and cooperation of international, regional and subregional organizations with the United Nations, with each other and with civil society, and of developing mechanisms to improve information-sharing, cooperation and coordination, in order to ensure the coherence and complementarity of efforts of actors involved in a specific mediation context;

15. *Emphasizes* the importance of facilitating interaction by mediators between concerned parties and other stakeholders, as appropriate, as well as inclusive national processes in the implementation of the agreed outcomes of mediation processes;

16. *Welcomes* the efforts of regional and subregional organizations that have developed their mediation and conflict prevention and resolution capacities, structures and policy frameworks, and encourages other interested organizations, as mandated by their member States, to make similar efforts, as appropriate;

17. *Encourages* regional and subregional organizations to appoint, as appropriate, mediation focal points and to regularly communicate their contact information to the Secretary-General, and requests the Secretary-General to maintain and share this information with Member States and regional and subregional organizations, as appropriate;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on cooperation between the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations on mediation, as well as possible ways to enhance such cooperation, and to hold regular briefings in order to promote closer consultation with Member States as well as regional and subregional organizations and to increase transparency;

19. *Invites* the Secretary-General to continue to brief Member States on mediation activities of the United Nations;

20. *Encourages* regional and subregional organizations to further enhance their informal thematic exchange with the Member States on mediation-related issues, as appropriate and in accordance with the Charter;

21. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question "Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution" at its seventieth session.

105th plenary meeting
31 July 2014